



BHS General Update as of Monday 24th January 2022

Thank you for your continued vigilance and support during this time. If there is information you would like to see included in this update or in other ways and by other means, please let us know at info@beechworthhealth.org.au

Mark Ashcroft CEO

Current COVID-19 safe guidelines in place at BHS until further notice (to be reviewed no later than the 7th Feb 2022).

THEME	STATUS
Face masks	<p>Face masks (properly fitted and worn) are mandatory for all health care workers. Can be worn for 4 consecutive hours and/or replace with fresh mask after removal or upon soiling / post meal and toilet breaks</p> <p>A proper fitting mask increases safety, safety of others and reduces risk of the spread of infection.</p>
PPE Tier 1	Surgical masks at all times. Current standard precautions for COVID negative patients/residents
PPE Tier 2	<p>Surgical masks and eye protection (face shields where practical) for patient/resident care.</p> <p><u>As of 11:59pm Monday 24th January, all BHS workers (staff, contractors and volunteers) will be required to wear Tier 2 PPE, with an N95 face mask.</u></p> <p>Tier 3 PPE remains in place when working in high risk situations and settings as per below.</p>
PPE Tier 3	<p><i>Tier 3 PPE is required when,</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> all Urgent Care Centre presentations and triage regardless of reason for presentation Tier 3 PPE is also worn in BHS's COVID-19 testing clinic and COVID-19 vaccination clinic face shields and PPE must be worn for aerosol procedures and anytime there is a risk of splashing with a procedure staff tending to patients/residents at time of admission, whilst awaiting PCR result <p>All exposure/care/contact with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> low- risk SCOVID (suspected COVID) high-risk SCOVID (suspected COVID) confirmed COVID patients PCR surveillance testing of healthcare workers
Patient Screening and Testing	<p>Testing patients/residents with compatible clinical and/or epidemiological risk factors.</p> <p>Asymptomatic testing (including preoperative testing) based on local risk assessment.</p> <p>All transfers to BHS from other admissions- RAT and PCR collected prior to transfer. If Rat result is negative, patient/resident can return to BHD and isolate pending PCR result</p>

	<p>All admissions from community – RAT and PCR collected on admission. If RAT result is negative, patient/resident can be admitted to BHS and isolate pending PCR result.</p> <p>If either of pre-admission or on-admission RAT positive, consult Public health unit AWH prior to entry. If already on site, isolate and consult Public Health Unit – AWH.</p>
<p>Workforce Attestations</p>	<p>REMINDER TO ALL STAFF</p> <p>All workers (staff, contractors and volunteers) and visitors must check in to BHS using the Service Victoria check-in and complete the wellness attestation utilising the QR codes presented at the point of entry,</p> <p>QR code 1: Please let us know you have arrived at BHS by way of the State Services Vic QR check-in code, located at entry points to BHS and its outreach program areas</p> <p>QR code 2: Please let us know you are well by way of the staff and visitor register (SAVR) QR code, also located at entry points to BHS and its outreach program areas (see visitor section below for further detail).</p> <p>Entry for all workers (staff, contractors and Volunteers) and visitors is subject to negative RAT screening conducted at point of entry using BHS supplied RA tests. Persons who have tested positive to COVID-19 in the previous 30 days do NOT meet the RAT criteria but must pass all other entry requirements</p> <p>Essential contractors must complete the contractor risk assessment form prior to arrival at BHS: Contractor Technician%20Risk%20Assessment%20Form%20v2.docx</p> <p>Residents and patients do not need to check-in, however community clients do.</p> <p>Emergency workers attending an emergency do not need to check-in.</p> <p>Entry is not permitted to individuals if they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ are required to isolate or quarantine having tested positive to COVID-19 ▪ are required to isolate having been a household contact with a COVID-19 positive individual ▪ have symptoms of COVID-19 (excluding people seeking care via the BHS Urgent Care Centre) ▪ Return a positive RA Test during BHS entry screening <p>If you have been contacted by Department of Health (Vic) in relation to a COVID-19 exposure site, please follow their advice.</p>
<p>Workforce</p>	<p>Staff breaks are considered high risk times and the following COVID safe practices should be followed,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining 1.5 meters distance at all breaks • Washing hands before and after your break • Refreshing your mask post-break • For a period of FIVE days, after returning to work from COVID-19 isolation and/or all close household contacts in the workplace must take breaks in locations that are not shared with other staff (please speak with your line manager if you perceive any difficulties locating such a place on the BHS site) <p>NB Specific COVID-19 safe guidelines inform what people must and must not do outside the workplace if they're classified as a household contact.</p>

<p>Visitors – RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE and ACUTE CARE</p>	<p>Visitor attendance to BHS, effective 11:59pm Monday 24th January, will be extended to allow for;</p> <p>Residential aged care - two scheduled visitors (adult/child) per day per resident, alternatively residents can visit with family/friends outside of BHS. Staff will provide a COVID care package to assist with COVID safe practices.</p> <p>Acute (excluding end-of life)– Visitors remain limited to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals providing emotional/physical support essential for patient well being • Parent/carer of the patient who is under 18 years • Mental health/dementia support • Carers gaining support relating to the provision of care for a patient on discharge • Two visitors per patient per day <p>End of life care –Please discuss any personal requirements with the NUM. Visitations will be tailored according to individual cases, by the team to ensure COVID safety is met for both residents/patients and their families.</p> <p>All Visitation is;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • subject to RAT screening on site in conjunction with the visitor attestation process. • PPE is to be worn as directed by staff. For more information: https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-01/New_COVIDSafe_settings.pdf • Two visitors are permitted • All visitors are required to be booked through front reception • It is strongly recommended that all visitors to residential aged care be fully COVID-19 vaccinated. <p>It is required that visitors to acute hospital wards are fully vaccinated. Visitor guidelines for BHS have been reviewed in conjunction with the relevant Residential Aged Care and hospital guidelines. These guidelines are subject to change and are continually reviewed in accordance with regional cases and exposures of COVID-19.</p>
<p>Specialist outpatient consulting</p>	<p>Telehealth consultations are recommended. Visiting specialist appointments are on hold.</p>
<p>Emergency Department /Urgent Care</p>	<p>Remain open for general public access.</p>
<p>Vulnerable Workforce (Higher Risk Workers)</p>	<p>Health services must re-deploy high-risk employees, based on risk assessment.</p> <p>Where not possible, health services must consider whether it is appropriate for these employees to attend work.</p> <p>PPE use according to site based COVID-19 risk applies to all staff. Please discuss concerns with your line manager.</p>

Workforce Mobility	<p>Workers must advise their line manager if they are working for more than one employer and provide details of the other work premises.</p> <p>These arrangements are subject to a risk assessment. Please see your line manger if you are/or intend to work elsewhere.</p>
Density Limits	<p>Density limits continue to apply across Beechworth Health service and change according to current guidelines. Please abide by these limits for continued safety of residents, patients and staff.</p>
Student clinical placements	<p>Student placements are able to recommence.</p> <p>Students are recognised as a key part of the health workforce. Student clinical placements are able to continue in all health service settings and in residential aged care facilities with appropriate safeguards in place.</p> <p>Student movement between two or more residential care facilities (or a residential care facility and a health service) should be avoided. If student movement is critical, students should return a negative test result (PCR or RAT) before transitioning between facilities.</p> <p>In the event of an outbreak in a residential aged care facility, student clinical placements can proceed pending individual outbreak advice from the Local Public Health Unit (LPHU).</p>
BHS COVID-19 Vaccination hub - Bantik House	<p>BHS's Bantik House COVID-19 vaccination hub is open on Thursdays 9.00am – 4.30pm. The vaccination clinic recommends appointment to avoid disappointment and walk-up requests will be available if time permits.</p> <p>For BHS staff who may be having difficulty securing a timely COVID-19 vaccination booking, please see your line manager.</p> <p>To make a booking please phone COVID-19 hotline on 1800 675 398 Or use the online booking system: https://portal.cvms.vic.gov.au/</p>
BHS COVID Testing clinic	<p>The BHS Bantik House drive through testing will be operating on Friday the 28th January, 8:00am-12:00pm. Rapid Antigen Tests will be available to people presenting to the testing clinic. The supply of RAT kits from public COVID-19 testing clinics is intended for Victorian residents and workers who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have COVID-19 symptoms and have not yet completed a RA Test, or • Are a confirmed close contact of a COVID-19 case (with or without symptoms) and have not yet completed a RA Test.
Club connection	<p>Club connection will recommence the week beginning Monday 31st January 2022 and operate within the COVID Safe guidelines. Staff will contact participants to make any necessary arrangements or changes to the service.</p>
BHS Kiosk	<p>BHS Kiosk is currently closed.</p>
Volunteer Programs	<p>Volunteer programs will resume gradually in 2022 and will occur in line with current COVID-19 safe guidelines. Staff will contact Volunteers directly to confirm arrangements.</p> <p>Volunteers are considered as 'workers' under the current Health Directions and as such must be fully vaccinated with an approved COVID-19 vaccination / or discuss any medical exemption with their line manager. – see below</p>

<p>Staff COVID Mandatory Vaccination</p>	<p>Under the pandemic orders effective 11:59pm Wednesday 12 January workers, in key sectors who are already required to be fully vaccinated with two doses must receive a third dose within the set timeline to continue being permitted to work onsite.</p> <p>These orders will apply to healthcare, aged care, disability, emergency services, correctional facility, quarantine accommodation and food distribution workers.</p> <p>BHS considers its entire site a residential aged care facility for the purposes of these guidelines.</p> <p>You must already have received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine (or have an exemption) to be able to work outside your home.</p> <p>When do you need to receive your third dose?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If you were eligible to receive your third dose on or before January 12, you are required to get your third dose by 12 February, 2022. - If you were not eligible to receive your third dose on or before January 12, you are required to get your third dose by 1 March, 2022. - Note: you are eligible to receive a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine if you received your second dose three or more months ago. <p>The staff groups included are as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FT, PT & casual staff employed or engaged on behalf of the residential aged care facility (RACF) • Direct care workforce (nurses; personal care workers; allied health professionals, and allied health assistants) • Administration staff • Medical practitioners who attend & provide care • Students on placement • Volunteers engaged by the RACF • Services support staff (food preparation; cleaning; laundry; garden maintenance) • Lifestyle / social care (music/art therapy); • Hairdresser • Agency staff working onsite • Transport drivers collecting residents from RACFs for outings • Contractors <p>All staff must provide up to date immunisation evidence to Gemma Howe, the Infection Prevention and Control Coordinator.</p> <p>For more information:</p> <p>https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/information-workers-required-be-vaccinated</p> <p>Please direct any queries to your Line Manager or BHS's HR Manager & a copy of the policy is available on the intranet.</p>
<p>Health & wellbeing events</p>	<p>BHS Coffee Club is in full swing and it's easy to participate.</p> <p>So, whether you're keen on a double shot, decaf, soy, mochaccino with an artificial sweetener or a Hot Chocolate to put a skip in your step, you simply follow the steps below;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Each area or the service has been allocated a day of the week, 2. Place your order with your line manager, 3. Coffee Staines in Beechworth kindly deliver coffees to your work area, 4. You drink your delicious hot beverage of choice! <p>Contact your line manager for more details.</p>

Health & Wellbeing Resources

It is not unusual to feel stressed and anxious in these confusing and uncertain times and it is ok to seek professional support if you are having difficulties.

There are free of cost mental health, counseling and support services in our local area available to support you and those around you during this time and ongoing. Please click on the link below for quick access to a range of resources,

<http://bhscnf01:8090/display/BHS/Staff+health+and+wellbeing>

All BHS staff and volunteers have access to the Staff & Volunteer Support Services. Policy HR60 Staff & Volunteer Support Services provides details regarding how to access this confidential service offered by Hume Psychology, 56 Gilchrist Avenue, Beechworth, Phone 03 5728 2446.

ACRONYMS

BHS: Beechworth Health Service
COVID – 19: Coronavirus disease
SCOVID: Suspected COVID -19
PPE: Personal Protective Equipment
SAVR: Staff and Visitor Register
RACS: Residential Aged Care Services
NUM: Nurse Unit Manager

AWH: Albury Wodonga Health
UCC: Urgent Care Centre
PCR: Polymerase Chain Reaction
ID: Identification
QR: Quick Response
HR: Human Resources